(c) the remedial measures taken; and

(d) by when those shortcomings would be rectified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Maintenance of the stations and trains on Indian Railways including those in Bihar State is a continuous process. Inspections including surprise inspections are done on regular basis by Divisional and Headquarters officers under extant instructions. Deficiencies noted during the inspections are complied by the concerned officials as early as possible through departmental/ contractual agencies. Wherever considered necessary, upgradation works are sanctioned through regular Works Programme of Railways. Damage and pilferage of coach fittings, that some time happen during run, are made good during periodical maintenance.

**Night vision goggles and cameras**

99. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the result of the experiment of 'night-vision goggles and cameras' to make drivers see signals and tracks in zero-visibility conditions;

(b) what is the envisaged degree of reliability regarding 'Image Amplification' technique, which is innovative in nature; and

(c) whether it is Railways' own indigenous technique or it is being imported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No such experiment with night vision goggles and cameras to make the drivers see signals and track in zero visibility conditions has been made.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Withdrawal of exemption of import of TMT**

100. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI;
Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has withdrawn the exemption of import of TMT which provides relief to domestic manufacturers of the items used for the construction sector;

(b) if so, whether steel companies ramp up output as demand rises;

(c) if so, whether the Steel Authority of India Ltd. has taken the slow down of steel seriously and has pointed out that Government needs to do more to see that the steel industry remains in shape;

(d) if so, whether action taken so far indicate that Government has not appreciated the depth of the problem; and

(e) if so, the measures Government is considering to help the steel industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has re-imposed countervailing duty (CVD) on import of TMT bars and structurals *w.e.f.* 2.1.2009.

(b) CVD on import of TMT bars and structurals was withdrawn as one of the measures' to control inflation and contain the rising steel prices. The production of various categories of steel, including TMT bars and structurals by the steel producers, is determined by the demand of that particular category in the market.

(c) In view of slowdown in steel sector, Steel Authority of India Limited along with other steel producers has approached the Government for taking suitable measures to stimulate demand of steel in the country and provide relief to the domestic steel industry which has been badly affected due to severe downturn in the global economy leading to a situation of excess availability of steel in the market and slow off take from consuming sectors.

(d) and (e) The Government is closely monitoring the situation and is in continuous dialogue with the steel industry. The following measures have already been taken by the Government in view of the current downturn:

(i) Export Duty on all steel items (except melting scrap) withdrawn *w.e.f.* 31.10.2008.

(ii) DEPB on steel items restored *w.e.f.* 14.11.2008.

(iii) Import Duty on iron and non-alloy steel items re-imposed at 5%, w.e.f. 18.11.2008.

(iv) 'Hot Rolled Coil' brought into restricted category of import w.e.f. 21.11.08

(v) CENVAT on steel items reduced from 14% to 10% *w.e.f.* 7.12.2008.

(vi) Countervailing duty (CVD) on TMT bars and structurals reintroduced *w.e.f.* 2.1.2009.

**Future trade in steel**

101. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of iron-ore reserves in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of iron-ore reserves under the control of Government and the private sector, State-wise;

(c) whether it is not a fact that small and medium iron-ore manufacturers are facing problems in view of futures trade in steel; and

(d) if so, how Government is planning to address the concerns of small and medium iron-ore manufactures in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) The details of iron ore reserves in the country, State-wise are given below:

(As on 1.4.2005)

| Mineral | Unit | State | Reserve |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Iron Ore (Heamatite) | 1000 Tonnes | Andhra Pradesh | 39,596 |
| | | Chhattisgarh | 760,512 |
| | | Goa | 458,703 |